



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

SEPTEMBER 30, 2004
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NITRO UPDATE
DEFENDANT SENTENCED IN GRUNDY COUNTY
METH CONSPIRACY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that another defendant was sentenced in federal court today for participating in a methamphetamine conspiracy in Grundy County, Mo. The sentencing, Graves said, is the result of work completed by the NITRO Task Force.

Patricia Jean Chipps, 36, Trenton, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning to two years and six months in federal prison without parole.

On June 28, 2004, **Chipps** pleaded guilty to conspiracy to manufacture and distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine between Oct. 1, 2002, and Sept. 18, 2003, in Grundy County.

Chipps is the fourth co-defendant to be sentenced in this case.

On Aug. 31, 2004, **Stacy Todd Davis**, 34, of Trenton, was sentenced to three years and one month in federal prison without parole for conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine in Grundy County, Mo. On Aug. 11, 2004, **Davis** pleaded guilty to his role in the conspiracy to manufacture and distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine between Oct. 1, 2002, and Sept. 18, 2003.

On Aug. 25, 2004, **Gary Michael Swofford**, 31, Trenton, was sentenced to five years in federal prison without parole. On April 13, 2004, **Swofford** pleaded guilty to conspiracy to manufacture and distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine between Oct. 1, 2002, and Sept. 18, 2003, in Grundy County.

On Aug. 4, 2004, **Laurie E. Baker**, 21, Trenton, was sentenced to two years in federal

prison without parole. On March 12, 2004, **Baker** pleaded guilty to conspiracy to manufacture and distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine. By pleading guilty, she admitted that the conspiracy took place between Oct. 1, 2002, and Sept. 18, 2003, in Grundy County, Mo.

Each of the co-defendants was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Sept. 17, 2003, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce Rhoades. It was investigated by the Grundy County, Mo., Sheriff's Office, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Trenton, Mo., Police Department, the Mercer County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Daviess County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the NITRO Task Force. NITRO is the Northwest Missouri Interagency Team Response Operation, a joint law enforcement effort by the United States Attorney's Office and federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in the 16-county region.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

